

## Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 COME-00 EB-11

HEW-08 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/113 W

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R 162053Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5373

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7936

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON SPOP UNWPC

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD POPULATION  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 161933

1. IN SPITE OF THE MEASURES WHICH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS TAKEN TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES THROUGH THE INCORPORATION OF PRIVATELY SPONSORED FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH SERVICES. GOV PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN DISTRESSINGLY TARDY. IN PART THIS REFLECTS THE RATIONALE WHICH BOTH GOV OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING HAVE CHOSEN TO JUSTIFY THEIR PROGRAMS, WHICH IS TO PLAY DOWN DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS AND POPULATION POLICY WHILE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FERTILITY. CONSEQUENTLY, SEVERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN'S WHO HAVE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "HEALTH SERVICES" AND "POPULATION POLICY."

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2. THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF

HEALTH, DR. BLAS BRUNI CELLI, A FIRM SUPPORTER OF FAMILY PLANNING. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN AT THE CONFERENCE FOR MORE THAN ONE WEEK. DRA. BRENDA DE FIGUEROA, THE SECOND RANKING OFFICIAL FROM THE DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE GOV'S OFFICE OF PLANNING, WILL PRESENT VENEZUELA'S STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION.

3. EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE THE GOV HAS NOT NAMED ITS FULL DELEGATION WHICH IS EPECTED TO INCLUDE ABOUT EIGHT OR TEN PERSONS. THERE REPORTEDLY WILL BE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BUT NOT INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR CHARGED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOV'S FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THERE WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY BE AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA.

4. DR. HENRY GOMEZ, DEAN OF THE PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES (IESA) IN CARACAS, WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS A PARTICIPANT. WHILE IESA HAS AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN POPULATION STUDIES HE SHOULD NOT BE URGED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF VENEZUELA. DR. GOMEZ IS A COLOMBIAN AND STATEMENTS THAT HE MIGHT MAKE ON POPULATION POLICY WITH REFERENCE TO VENEZUELA COULD BE CONTROVERSIAL HERE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CARACA07936  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SPM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 161933  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** OCON, SPOP, AR, BUCHAREST, UNWPC, WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, (BRUNI CELLI, BLAS), (DE FIGUEROA, A BRENDA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005